



Who Are You? Establishing Identity Assurance

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Why Worry?

Early FICC discussions revealed that even if we successfully deploy interoperable ID Badges using smart cards with strong logical credentials on board, individual Federal organizations will not trust the cards issued by other Federal organizations.

I.E.: Federal Agencies will not change their current policies concerning the ID Badges of other organizations just because we make them smart.



Why Not?

In a nutshell:

Federal organizations *do not trust* the identity assurance practices of other organizations.

There is no Federal government-wide regulatory requirement concerning identity.



What Do We Have?

- 1950 Statute concerning the Qualifications for holding a position of Public Trust
 - Determining Trustworthiness, Loyalty and Integrity
- Oversight provided by OPM
- Only governs general service employees

Identity Theft apparently was not a perceived threat in 1950



FICC Identity Assurance Activities

Develop a baseline requirement for determining the validity of an asserted identity that is acceptable across the Federal Sector

- Prove that the identity exists
- Prove the applicant is entitled to that identity
- Address the potential for fraudulent issuance of credentials based on collusion



Activity

- Establish an Identity Assurance Working Group
- Task:
 - Determine the minimum threshold of information (i.e. documents) required to establish reliable identity
 - Determine the optimum process for validating the presented documents
 - Determine the optimum process for issuing identity credentials to Federal employees and Contractors



Current Status of FICC Activity

- Acknowledgement that the I-9 provides best source of acceptable identity documentation
- Three Exceptions to current I-9 requirements:
 - Passport must be currently valid
 - Tribal documents must be separate and distinct
 - Must include a current government-issued picture ID
- Minimum Procedures:
 - Two person control of issuance process (sponsor and issuer are distinct)
 - Document verification/Background check complete prior to badge issuance
 - Biometrics gathered as part of issuance process



Proposed Process

- Sponsoring Authority requests identity credentials for Applicant
- Applicant completes SF-85 or equivalent, provides identity documents, and fingerprints
- Independent Approval Authority makes determination based on results of background checks
- Applicant appears before Credential Issuer
- Credential Issuer collects and reviews Applicant's documentation, compares original source identification documents to application documents and physical characteristics of Applicant



Open Issues

- Reliable, consistent means to validate proof of identity documentation
- Should there be degrees of identity assurance?
- Where does identity assurance end and suitability begin?
- We've been looking at traditional methods of identity assurance – are there other, more efficient, cost effective means of determining identity?
- What is feasible to do today, and what can we look forward to in the future?



